

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
STATE EXTENDED BENEFIT RIGHTS INFORMATION.

Frequently Asked Questions

EB HOTLINE NUMBER FOR GENERAL INFORMATION 800-244-5631

The State Extended Benefits program (EB) provides unemployment benefits to eligible individuals who have exhausted their benefits. The first payable week for EB is week ending April 11, 2009 or upon exhaustion of your current benefits, whichever is later.

1. Who is entitled to Extended Benefits?

If you have exhausted your rights to Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) and are still unemployed, you may be entitled to EB.

2. How do I file for Extended Benefits?

Upon exhaustion of your EUC benefits, **your EB claim will be established automatically. You do not need to contact your local office.** If you have not received notification of your eligibility for EB within three weeks after you exhausted EUC call 800-244-5631.

3. What will my EB Weekly Benefit Amount be?

Your EB weekly benefit will be the same as your EUC weekly benefit amount (note: the \$25.00 Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) program was terminated as of 12/11/10).

4. How many weeks of EB will I receive?

If you are eligible for EB, you will receive up to 13 weeks of additional benefits.

5. Do I continue to call TeleServe?

Yes.

When your extended benefits claim is established you will be sent a Wage Information Sheet which will instruct you when to call TeleServe. Because you are on EB, you will be asked to provide the following additional information when you place your call.

Did you refuse an offer of work during the weeks for which you are certifying?

Did you make a systematic and sustained search for work and mail or fax your EB work search form? (see 6b for more information regarding the EB work search form)

Note: if you are currently certifying using paper certifications, when your EB claim is established, you will receive your paper certification. In addition, you will receive a EB work search form (see 6b) with a question regarding whether you refused work during the weeks for which you are certifying and an area for you to provide your work search for those same weeks. You must complete the certification, including the work search form and return both to the address on the form. If during a week you are claiming, you fail to meet the work search requirements and do not wish to claim the week, please, cross through the week on both your certification and your work search form.

6. What are the work search requirements for EB?

a. You must make a sustained and systematic effort to find work.

You must have at **least five employer contacts per week and apply for work on at least three days during each week you are claiming. Your efforts to find work must be continuous throughout the week.** On each normal work day, you must take some positive action to find work. If there is a day in which you make no employer contacts, you must, for example, prepare a resume; contact a union or professional organization, etc. You must look for work that pays the minimum wage or your weekly benefit amount including any supplemental unemployment benefits, whichever is more. **YOU MUST PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF YOUR WORKSEARCH ON AN EB WORK SEARCH FORM.**

b. What is an EB Work Search form?

A copy of the EB Work Search form is attached. Prior to your TeleServe call date, this form must be completed, mailed or faxed to the address/number printed on the form. Failure to mail or fax this form will result in a denial of benefits and a potential overpayment. A new EB Work Search Form with the appropriate week ending dates will be mailed to you after each time you certify. If you lose your form, go to our website at <http://www.ides.state.il.us/> and access one from our web page.

- c. **You must register for work with Illinois Employment Service.**
If you are not already registered, you must register within 10 days of the receipt of this letter. You can register on line at www.illinoisskillsmatch.com. Failure to register may result in a denial of benefits.

7. What if I do not meet the work search requirements or fail to mail or fax my EB Work Search form?

If you do not send in your work search document or it is incomplete, you will be denied EB benefits indefinitely until you return to work for at least 4 weeks and earn at least 4 times your weekly benefit amount. If you are aware you do not meet the work search requirements when you certify for benefits through TeleServe you should answer “no” to the question regarding whether you conducted a systematic and sustained search for work. By answering no, you will be waiving payment for this week but this will prevent an indefinite denial for all future EB weeks.

Example: You are due to certify for the period from 4-12-09 through 4-18-09 and 4-19-09 through 4-25-09, however you were on vacation during this time period from 4-13 to the 4-17 and did not look for work while on vacation. To prevent disqualification you should “waive” week ending 4-18 by indicating you did not meet the systematic and sustain search for work requirement when calling TeleServe. If you claim this week rather than “waive” it, you will be denied this week and each week thereafter until you requalify. By waiving it, you will not receive payment for WE 4-18 but as long as you met the requirements, you will be paid for WE 4-25

8. How fast and in what manner will I receive my EB payment?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you will receive your payment in the same time frame and manner as your current payment. If you wish to change your method of payment from debit card to direct deposit or visa versa, please access our website at <http://www.ides.state.il.us/> and select the direct deposit link.

9. Will taxes be withheld from my EB weekly benefits?

Taxes will be deducted from your weekly benefits if you previously requested that taxes be withheld. If you wish to change you tax election, access our website at <http://www.ides.state.il.us/> go to the Federal Additional Compensation link, click on the Tax 2 form. Complete the form and mail or fax to the address indicated on the form.

10. I filed a claim against Illinois but am currently living in another state; will I be eligible for EB?

You are eligible for EB in the same manner as any other claimant if both the State in which you are a resident and Illinois have EB in effect. If your state of residence is not in an EB period, two weeks of benefits are the maximum you can receive.

11. I get my jobs through my union. Do I have to look for other work to receive EB?

Yes. If you normally get your jobs through your union you are still required to look for other suitable work that will not jeopardize your union status. In addition, you must register for work with Illinois Employment Services. You can register on line at www.illinoisskillsmatch.com.

12. Do I have to accept any offers of work while I'm on EB?

Federal regulations require all claimants' receiving EB to have their job prospects classified as “good” or “not good”. This classification is based upon whether or not you have a definite return to work date within four weeks. Our records show you do not have a definite return to work within 4 weeks therefore your job classification is “not good: for this reason, you must accept any offer of work if the following apply;

- 1) The gross weekly pay exceeds your weekly benefit amount plus the amount of any supplemental unemployment benefits;
- 2) the pay is equal to the Federal and State minimum wage;
- 3) the offer is in writing or listed with the Employment Service

13. I have some additional questions, who should I contact?

Call **800-244-5631** for additional information.